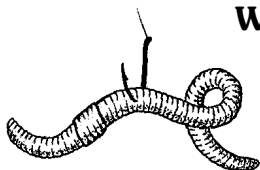


Baiting Your Hook



Be careful not to bait your hook with your finger!



Worms are a favorite fish bait. Dig for them in wet, rich soil. Keep worms fresh in a covered container with damp soil or shredded newspaper.

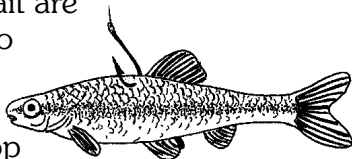


When fishing for catfish or bass, hook a whole worm in the middle, leaving the end free to wiggle.

For sunfish and other bait-stealers, hook bits of worms at the end.

Minnows used for bait are usually about one to three inches long.

Put the hook through the very top of its back, just in front of the fin so that the minnow can swim. You will probably want to buy your minnows.

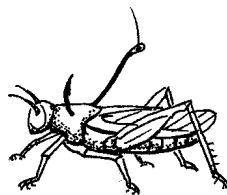
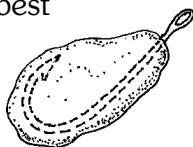


It is illegal to dump minnows into the water; you might be introducing an exotic. Share your extra minnows with another angler, instead of dumping them.

Keep your bait in the shade.



Dough balls are the best bait for carp. You can make them with flour, bread, cornmeal, or flaky cereal dampened with water and honey. Press them into tight little balls around a fishhook, take off your bobber and drop your bait to the bottom with a big sinker.



Grasshoppers and crickets are good summer baits you can find in fields and lawns. Slip the hook through the collar just behind

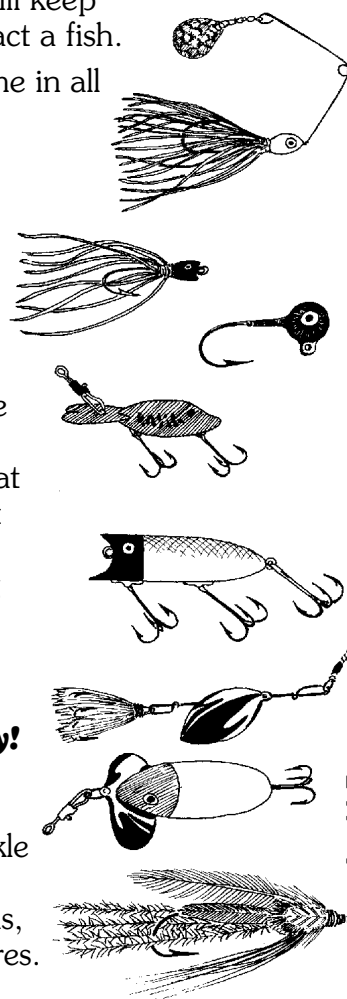
their necks; this will keep them lively to attract a fish.

Artificial lures come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. They are designed to resemble natural fish food, grab a fish's curiosity or just make a fish mad enough to bite it. A good rule of thumb is to buy or make one lure at a time and perfect your use of that lure before getting more - unless you just like to collect things.



Get artsy!

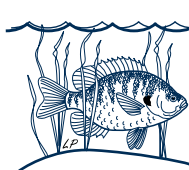
You can paint your own lures. Some tackle shops sell special paints, blank jig heads, and parts to make lures.



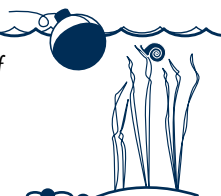
Jim McEvoy



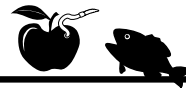
Is your bait legal? Not all baits and lures are legal everywhere, all the time. Check the fishing regulations to be sure. People are sometimes tempted to use crayfish for bait, but they're not legal in inland waters so read those regs!



Minnows are not baby fish, but a family of small fish. There are 54 species of minnows in Wisconsin; 13 are endangered, threatened, or listed as a species of concern.



Baiting Your Hook - Teacher's notes



Objective

Consider the variety of baits available.

Life Skill

Decision Making

WI Academic Standards

Art: E.4.3, 8.3.

Vocabulary

Minnow

Getting Started

There are possibly 10 times as many baits and lures as there are fish. Some are better at attracting humans than fish, but you never know until you rig up with your latest razzle-dazzle creation and give it a try. Remind anglers that fish have a keen sense of smell and don't like sunscreen or bug dope. Anglers should use the backs of their hands to apply any type of lotion.

Hands On

Anglers in Grade 6 and up can make their own lures and jigs. See appendix for supply list and sources. Check any cautionary notes on use of paints.

Lure testing is best done outdoors. Cap off the ends of a rain gutter to make a trough. Fill it with water and watch the lure action as anglers line their creations through the water. Ready-made, store-bought lures are fun to watch, too.

A swimming pool is a good option if you have access to one. Assign a volunteer to bring along a swimming suit to don if necessary, to retrieve lost lures.

Inquiry

Survey anglers at the local fishing hole to determine the most common bait.

Many anglers collect their own live bait or make their own lures. Interview a lure carver or fly-tier to find out why he or she does it.

Materials

Capped off rain gutter and water. See page 32 for jig painting supplies.

Duration

Two, 45-minute sessions.

Web Connection

Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Hayward, WI includes a museum filled with antique lures and fishing equipment. Visit their website at www.freshwater-fishing.org.

Resources

Wisconsin Fishing Regulations, DNR Publication FH-305

Raising Worms for Profit by Earl B. Shields, 1959, revised 1982 and 1994.

Note

Not all baits are legal to use at all times. For example, crayfish are legal to use in the Mississippi River, but not in inland waters. Minnows are legal during the summer, but not for ice fishing on certain lakes. In some circumstances only artificial lures and flies are permitted. Always check the regulations regarding bait before fishing.

